

From: Robin Datta
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/1/02 7:01am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Honorable Justices:

I have used Microsoft products from MS-DOS 3.0 onwards through 6.0+; Win 2.0 (yes, 2.0, when the IBM OS2 was priced at \$400+ but the MS product was quite reasonable to dabble with) and on through 3.0, 3.11, Win 95 (briefly), WinNT3.5, 4.0 through SP6 and on to Win2kProf and WinXPPro. Other OSs have attempted to take the place of Windows but have not offered the options and versatility that we have now.

Microsoft was under no obligation to offer automatic updates to its OS but has done so. It is a wonderful feature. And Windows will be the OS to be proficient in, in much of the foreseeable future. To say that MS will have an unfair advantage in providing its software to the educational system is to neglect the unfair disadvantage that the students now have when screwing around with the Apple/MacIntosh system. While MS does make its Office Suite available for the Apple/MacIntosh system (which refutes the argument that the Office Suite holds the user hostage to Windows), there are so many other features of the Windows and so many other applications and devices that run under windows, that it is almost cruel to deprive the student generation of proficiency in these.

It is time for the pirhanas to get off Microsoft. If they cannot compete in the market, it is not right that they try to make good in the courts. We have already seen a candidate who could not win in the election installed by the courts as the President-pretender of this country. I do not believe that the court system should replace the people's choice whether in the software market or at the ballot box.

Sincerely,
Robin Datta
robbin@ix.netcom.com
9228 N Stoneridge Ln
Fresno CA 93720-1210
(559) 434-0370